Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01931 161122Z

15
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 NIC-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 RSR-01 /069 W
---------- 101017
R 161030Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4916
INFO USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 1931

FOR COMMERCE (BEWT)

E.O. 11652: N:A
TAGS: PFOR, BFOL, ETRD, GE, CZ, HU, US
SUBJ: JOINT CZECH-HUNGARIAN-GDR AUTOMOBILE PROJECT -
GM PROPOSAL.

REF: A) PRAGUE 1751 (NOTAL); B) BERLIN 1384 AND PREVIOUS

1. ING. VACLAV JAROLIM, VICE PRESIDENT OF MOTOKOV, TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 15 THAT HE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO MEET WITH GM OFFICIALS SMITH AND STRUPP DURING BRNO FAIR IN SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS JOINT AUTOMOBILE PROJECT. JAROLIM APPARENTLY HAD RECEIVED LETTER FROM SMITH STATING THAT GM OFFICIALS WOULD ATTEND BRNO FAIR THIS YEAR.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, JAROLIM REVEALED THAT TECHNICAL PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR PROPOSED NEW AUTOMOBILE WERE "VERY POOR" AND EXPRESSED OPINION THAT PELIKAN'S LETTER TO EMBASSY OF JULY 13 (SEE PRAGUE 1667) IN WHICH LATTER ADVISED THAT SPECIFICATIONS UNAVAILABLE BECAUSE VEHICLE AS YET IN "STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT" PROBABLY
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01931 161122Z

DUE AS MUCH TO EMBARRASSMENT OVER PAUCITY OF INFORMATION

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

ON PART OF CESCHOSLOVENSKE AUTOMOBILOVE ZAVODY (CAZ) AS ANYTHING ELSE. (THIS WOULD SEEM TO CONFIRM DOELLING'S REMARK ON GM (STRUPP) LETTER OF JULY 23 TO GDR KAMMER FUER AUSSENHANDEL, REPORTED REFTEL B.) WHEN ASKED WHETHER IT WAS TRUE, AS MR. ZAPADLO HAD INDICATED DURING HIS VISIT TO THE U.S., THAT A PROTOTYPE OF NEW AUTOMOBILE WAS ALREADY ON ROAD, JAROLIM REPLIED THAT A PROTOTYPE IN FACT EXISTED BUT HAD NOT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE BEEN DEVELOPED TO POINT OF ROAD-TESTING. IN FACT, JAROLIM WAS AWARE ONLY THAT BODY AND CHASSIS HAD BEEN DESIGNED BY THE ITALIAN FIRM, ITALDESIGN, LOCATED IN TORINO, ITALY. JAROLIM SAID HE HAD SEEN FIRST PHYSICAL COPY OF BODY AT ITALDESIGN PLANT WHILE ATTENDING AUTO SHOW IN TORINO LAST FALL, AND AT THAT TIME NEITHER ENGIN NOR UNDER-CARRIAGE HAD BEEN INCORPORATED INTO VEHICLE. JAROLIM FELT CERTAIN THAT NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS HAD TAKEN PLACE ON THOSE MAJOR COMPONENTS SINCE THAT TIME. HE DESCRIBED BODY SIZE OF NEW AUTO AS BEING LARGER THAN PRESENT-DAY SKODA BUT SMALLER THAN LATEST MODEL OF RUSSIAN-BUILT VOLGA. HE WAS UNABLE TO RECALL FURTHER DETAILS.

3. JAROLIM WILL BE IN U.S. FOR 10 DAYS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 17 FOR INTERNATIONAL MOTORCYCLE RACES WHICH WILL BE HELD IN MASSACHUSETTS. HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO MEET WITH SMITH OR STRUPP, PERHAPS IN NEW YORK, DURING THIS PERIOD AND MAY BE REACHED THROUGH AMERICAN JAWA, LTD, 185 EXPRESS STREET, PLAINVIEW, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK.

4. IT CLEAR FROM JAROLIM'S REMARKS, THAT AS SENIOR OFFICIAL IN CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATION PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPORTING AND EXPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES, HE IS NOT IMPRESSED WITH SALES POTENTIAL OF PROPOSED NEW VEHICLE, BASED ON MOTOKOV'S CONCERNS OVER VEHICLE'S INITIALLY POOR DESIGN. IT LIKELY, THEREFORE, THAT HIS INTEREST IN SEEKING FURTHER MEETING WITH GM OFFICIALS WILL BE TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS GM DESIGNERS CAN MAKE TO ASSURE VEHICLE'S GREATER MARKET ACCEPTABLILITY. WHEN ASKED, HE INSISTED THAT ENGINE AND TRANSMISSION FOR VEHICLE WOULD ULTIMATELY BE PRODUCED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WHATEVER OTHER DECISIONS WERE MADE.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

5. AS EMBASSY HAS NOTED BEFORE, MOST RECENTLY IN CONNECTION WITH AUTOSERVICE SHOW IN MOSCOW, JAROLIM IS INFLUENTIAL OFFICIAL IN ORGANIZATION WHICH MAY HAVE MUCH TO SAY OVER FINAL DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW VEHICLE. BOTH SMITH AND STRUPP MET HIM DURING THEIR CALL ON MOTOKOV'S DIRECTOR, VACLAV HANUS, ON JUNE 13.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

6. EMBASSY WILL BE HAPPY TO RELAY TO JAROLIM PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR U.S. ANY RESPONSE FROM GM WHICH MAY SEEM APPROPRIATE. WE URGE, HOWEVER, THAT SOME ATTEMPT BE MADE BY GM OFFICIALS TO MEET WITH HIM DURING HIS STAY IN U.S. AS WELL AS AT BRNO FAIR IN SEPTEMBER.
WORTZEL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PRAGUE01931
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730834/aaaaayph.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) PRAGUE 1751 (NOTAL); B) BERLIN 13, 84 AND PREVIOUS
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT CZECH-HUNGARIAN-GDR AUTOMOBILE PROJECT - GM PROPOSAL.
TAGS: PFOR, BFOL, ETRD, GC, CZ, HU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005